

# Jaguar 2030 Roadmap

REGIONAL PLAN TO SAVE AMERICA'S LARGEST CAT  
AND ITS ECOSYSTEMS



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### JAGUAR 2030 OBJECTIVE

To strengthen the Jaguar Corridor across the range countries, by securing 30 priority jaguar landscapes by 2030, stimulating sustainable development, reducing jaguar-human conflict in human-dominated landscapes, and increasing the security and connectivity of core protected landscapes, thus meeting globally significant biodiversity goals

The jaguar is the third largest cat in the world—after tigers and lions—and both the largest cat and top apex predator in most of the Western Hemisphere. Jaguars play an important role in the structure and function of the ecosystems in which they live, from northern Mexico to northern Argentina. They are a critical component of healthy, functioning animal and plant communities and have significant umbrella effects for biodiversity conservation. A jaguar-focused conservation strategy can serve as an effective umbrella for a suite of co-occurring mammals. Jaguars are also a valuable indicator of healthy ecosystems, and they become a focus for the protection of habitats that are important for forest protection and climate mitigation initiatives. As such, they constitute a foundation not only for wildlife conservation, but also for peoples' well-being.

Unfortunately, jaguar populations are seriously threatened by habitat loss and fragmentation, retaliatory killings associated with livestock depredation, fear for human safety, killing for trophies and trafficking, and competition with human hunters for wild prey. These core threats have placed substantial pressure on the species and continue to decrease overall numbers throughout most of the jaguar's range.

The jaguar has lost approximately 50 percent of its historic range, with an estimated seven million km<sup>2</sup> of tropical and sub-tropical habitat remaining. Retention of these ecosystems not only has value for jaguars, but they also have immense economic value. While a comprehensive economic valuation of these services is not yet available, an estimate of the economic value of some prominent ecosystem services generated from jaguar habitats in Brazil alone exceeds \$4 billion a year, including hydropower generation, livestock and agriculture, and tourism in the Amazon Basin and Pantanal.

Core jaguar populations, or strongholds, are connected via a series of biological and genetic corridors into a single, large-scale ecological unit—the Jaguar Corridor. The model has been successful in accelerating knowledge of jaguar distributions and the challenges the species faces, while also advancing conservation tools employed to 'hold ground', or secure core populations.

Jaguar conservation units, or JCUs, and individual corridors connecting them, work together to maintain the viability



of populations. A network of core populations and connecting corridors is the only way to ensure the persistence of a single, interconnected meta-population. Core populations generally occur in relatively intact habitat. JCUs are most often found within protected areas, such as national parks, reserves and sanctuaries. At a minimum, JCUs tend to have a high percentage of their area in some form of restricted use by people.

In the overall scheme of jaguar conservation, both JCUs and corridors are key for long-term conservation efforts. Securing jaguars across the overall Jaguar Corridor requires working both within core areas—including protected areas—as well as within the productive landscape which jaguars are sometimes required to cross. However, it also requires working at different scales as delineated by humans. These include: landscape level, national level and transboundary and regional levels.

At landscape level, expanding and raising the level of effectiveness of protected areas are key to securing jaguar strongholds. Many 'protected' areas across the jaguar range are protected in name only, however, with little in the way of capacity to deter poaching, logging, agricultural incursions and other threats. Thus, in addition to further protected areas, there is a need to build capacities for managing and patrolling through training, infrastructure and



**Figure 01: Map of Key Biodiversity Areas and Jaguar Conservation Units and Corridors**

Sources: Panthera 2018  
BirdLife International (2018) Digital boundaries of Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas from the World Database of Key Biodiversity Areas. February 2018 Version. Available at <http://datazone.birdlife.org/site/requestgis> [Accessed (10/09/2019)].



equipment. In the human-dominated landscapes that connect core populations, high-potential linkage corridors can be identified, land-use characterized, and actions applied that enable jaguar movement through those lands, despite the pressures. Such efforts help to ensure the integrity of corridors and to ameliorate human-jaguar conflict.

An important, even essential, complement to work taking place at landscape level consists of efforts to establish a national-level enabling environment for jaguar conservation. Several countries have found it useful to develop national action plans for jaguar conservation. Whether undertaken through national action plans or not, actions needed at national level include: identification of core jaguar populations, recognition of connective corridors between core jaguar populations, implementation of protective measures to secure core populations, and implementation of conflict mitigation measures in human-dominated corridors.

Coordination of effort among range countries is a crucial component of jaguar conservation and habitat restoration. Coordination needs to occur at two distinct, yet complementary, levels. These are: (i) regional level, including range-wide vision development, action planning (including goal setting), harmonization of monitoring and evaluation protocols, sharing of experience, etc., and (ii) transboundary co-operation among more limited sub-sets of countries, which mainly involves landscape-level cooperation within and between JCUs and corridors, but which can also extend up to national-level protocols and agreements.

A final, cross-cutting challenge is that of sustainable financing. A key part of this challenge involves ensuring the adequacy and sustainability of protected area financing systems. Aside from the ongoing costs of managing protected area systems, which are key to protecting core populations found in protected JCUs, are the costs associated with conserving jaguars across the productive landscape. In some cases, such costs may be surprisingly low, as policy actions eliminate externalities and other inefficiencies. Where real costs occur, e.g. related to infrastructure, there are strong arguments for ensuring that such costs are internalized into private and public sector investment decision making.

Jaguar 2030 is a range-wide effort that unites range country governments, nongovernmental and inter-governmental organizations, local communities and the private sector around a shared vision to conserve jaguars and their valuable ecosystems. The jaguar range countries and partners unanimously agree to the shared objective of Jaguar 2030. They agree, with support from interested organizations, to work together to counter the multiple threats to jaguars, including habitat loss and fragmentation, livestock conflict, and the growing trafficking of jaguar parts—helping to preserve the natural and cultural heritage that jaguars represent for many Latin American cultures.

Like the jaguar itself, whose genetic integrity provides evidence of its essential mobility, the Roadmap itself is imagined as steps along a series of Pathways. Here, a set of four complementary and mutually reinforcing Pathways—including priority actions and targets at regional, national and landscape levels, together with actions aimed at achieving financial sustainability—converge on the 2030 objective. The Pathways are as follows:

#### **PATHWAY #1**

Range-wide coordination in support of protection, connectivity, scaling up and enhancing ambition.

#### **PATHWAY #2**

Development and national-level implementation of range countries' national strategies, including priority JCU strengthening plans, improved national-level enabling environments and national contributions to transboundary efforts.

#### **PATHWAY #3**

Scaling up of conservation-compatible sustainable development models in JCUs and Corridors, including transboundary landscapes.

#### **PATHWAY #4**

Enhancing the financial sustainability of systems and actions aimed to conserve jaguars and associated ecosystems.





**Figure 02: Mesoamerican Jaguar Conservation Units and Corridors, detail.**

By supporting the Jaguar 2030 Roadmap, the jaguar range countries reaffirm their commitment to integrated development, based on conservation of natural capital and the sustainable productive systems. The project aims to facilitate a transition towards a low carbon economy resilient to climate change in terms of international agreements, in alignment with the 2030 Agenda, the Sustainable Development Goals, the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, and the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 (Aichi Targets).

Taking advantage of the newly energized sense of collaboration across jaguar range and with the aim of creating a clear informational baseline for all stakeholders, the Roadmap also provides detailed information regarding jaguars and their range. This includes a set of country profiles, transboundary profiles highlighting shared and contiguous JCU and, finally, a comprehensive listing of baseline actions, organized by individual Pathway.

